

HADLEY NEWSLETTER

(Hadley, Headley, Hadlee, Hadly, Hadleigh, etc and their related kin)

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Possible roots of our Hadley Name:

William the Bastard, who was the **Duke of Normandy**, (which has been part of France since 1035), was successful in defeating **Harold Godwinson**. **Harold** had been named by **King Edward the Confessor** as his successor. **King Edward the Confessor** was the last of the royal line of the Anglo-Saxons.

William the Bastard contended he was the rightful person to assume the kingship of England. **Edward the Confessor** had no children and had previously named **William** as his successor.

William was also the first cousin once removed to **Edward**.

On 14 October 1066, **William** invaded England and defeated **Harold Godwinson**, who spuriously asserted his right to the English throne. **Harold** was killed during the *Battle of Hastings*. On Christmas Day in 1066 **William** was crowned King of England and thus became known as **William the Conqueror**.

William did not have a clear knowledge of the size and scope of his newly conquered England. In 1086, **William** commissioned the "*Great Survey*," which was to include much of England and Wales, in an effort to find out who owned the land in his new kingdom. **William** needed to determine the size of each landholder's acreage, as well as his livestock. The purpose of this survey, which was published and survives to this day, was to determine who should pay taxes and how much. This "*Great Survey*" is now known as the **Domesday Book**.

On page six of this book is listed the small settlement of **Hadley** along with several of the landholders, including their livestock. Here we must ask if the settlement of **Hadley** existed before **William's** invasion in 1066 or did this settlement come into being in the time span of 20 years between the invasion and the 1086 survey of his kingdom?

This information does let us know that our name goes back at least to 1086, and perhaps well before that time. Stay tuned as we continue to explore our roots and report to you on our findings.



Hadley Factoid: On or about 24 Dec 1194, the name of Hadley was first recorded. "It belonged to a *Matilda de Hadlega.*, a women from Hadleigh in Suffolk, England, who was wealthy enough to be mentioned in the financial records of the time". *Ipswich Book of Days* by Rachel Field

Probable Error in our Hadley Genealogy:

It is reasonable to assume the settlement of **Hadley** gave its name to some of its residents or perhaps was the name of a yet unknown individual with whom we might be related.

Last month in the October 2016 *Hadley Newsletter* we published the research done by **Barb Edge** on the probable English roots of our patriarch George Hadley. Barb feels the research done by Charles Edward Banks about our George and as set forth in his book "*Topographical dictionary of 2885 English emigrants to New England, 1620-1650*" published 1937 is incorrect. Barb believes, and the writer of these notes agrees, that Banks confused our George Hadley with the William Hadley who married Elizabeth Spooner. That William lived and died in Frostenden, Suffolk, England. A birth record of our patriarch George has yet to be found, although we do know he died on 29 Sept 1686 in Ipswich, Essex County, Massachusetts.

Ray Hadley, Kickapoo Hillbilly:

Raymond LeRoy Hadley Sr. has been singing, writing songs and playing his guitar since a young boy, even though he does not read music. Ray was born at Duck Creek, Vernon County Wisconsin in 1932, one of 12 children born to Merle and Leota (Whitt) Hadley. To his radio listening audience he is simply known as "Uncle Ray." He can be heard playing and singing on Saturday mornings at WDRT 91.9 FM, Driftless Community Broadcasting from Viroqua, Wisconsin.

Uncle Ray is one of the last of the singers, composers and players of the Hillbilly style of music known as Kickapoo. That style of music is hard to describe – perhaps the best way to understand it is to hear it by going to www.facebook.com/rayhadleythelastkickapoohillbilly/?fref=nf. We invite you to read a delightful story about Uncle Ray as published in the 28 July 2016, Vol 111 Issue 18 of the Crawford County Independent, published at Gays Mills, WI. <http://www.swnews4u.com/section/1/article/32416/>



"Every decent man is ashamed of the government he lives under."
H. L. Mencken

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